

WISCONSIN FBLA e-BULLETIN

News for Wisconsin FBLA Members



Get the Edge!

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Farewell Wisconsin FBLA!



Congratulations National Leadership Conference Qualifiers!

The day that I have been dreading since I've obtained the position as the Wisconsin FBLA State Reporter has finally arrived. I never thought I could see myself sitting at my desk writing my last message for the final issue of the Wisconsin FBLA eBulletin.

It has been an incredible ride, Wisconsin FBLA, and as many of us head to Anaheim for the 2009 National Leadership Conference, it means the beginning of many rounds of competition, but the end of one of the most influential years I've had in my life. Members and advisers, if there is one last piece of advice that I may offer before departing, it is to continue to get involved with FBLA and participate in the flourishing of this wonderful organization.

I want to thank Joseph Riley, FBLA National President, Caleb Harris, North Central Region Vice President, and each of the Wisconsin state officers for their contributions to the WFEB and making this year a success. Thank you again for a great year! Farewell, Wisconsin FBLA.

And as always, if your chapter would like to submit an article for upcoming issues, please contact the newly elected Wisconsin FBLA State Reporter at wifblareporter@gmail.com.

National Leadership Conference Preview

Congratulations to all who competed at State this year and will be joining us as a National qualifier! This year's **National Leadership Conference** will be held in Anaheim, California, which makes it a natural opportunity for fun and new experiences! The conference kicks off Thursday, June 25, and continues until the Awards of Excellence Program and closing social event on Sunday, June 28. Many Wisconsin FBLA members will have the opportunity to compete and earn prestigious awards at the conference. Others will have the chance to network and gain new skills, and some will have the chance to run for national office. This year, twelve new amazing state officers, headed by Larissa Speerstra, will represent Wisconsin FBLA.

As we prepare for our events, let's take a look at what we can expect at the conference.

Todd Newton will be the keynote speaker during the Opening Session. Todd is famous

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for his work on E! Entertainment Television. Once the host of Whammy, he is also a certified life coach, and is the founder of Los Angeles-based Todd Newton Life Strategies. FBLA members will be able to take open event tests and become the first students to ever place in a new event. Also, this year's workshops will focus on an array of topics in business, career development, communication, information technology, leadership and finance.

One of the most exciting parts of the conference is the Exhibition Hall. FBLA members and advisers will be able to meet and discuss goals/ideas with national officer candidates and business representatives from around the country. Finally, between competitions, members will be able to tour various businesses with their advisers in the Anaheim area. Tours and tickets offered at the National Leadership Conference this year are:

Disneyland
Disney's California Adventure
Knott's Berry Farm
Universal Studios
Discover the California Riviera
Hollywood Walk of Stars
Dolphin Safari
Biking on Newport Coast
City of Angels
Major League Baseball Game
Evening on Newport Harbor

These are only a few of the amazing experience offered at this year's NLC in Anaheim. For more detail or other information on the NLC, go to www.fbla-pbl.org and follow the conference links.



North Central Region Update

Article by Caleb Harris, North Central Region Vice President



Wisconsin FBLA,

The 2008-2009 FBLA year is drawing to an unfortunate close. Within a few short months, the **National Leadership Conference** will take place. I am excited to attend the conference, a time when many members from throughout the nation will compete, attend workshops, listen to keynote speakers and run for office. I hope to see many of you in attendance as well as at the **Institute for Leaders**.

Plans did not work out for me to attend the Wisconsin State Leadership Conference, but I am glad that the Eastern Region Vice President, Paul Cohen, could be in attendance. I know he had a wonderful time. Congratulations to everyone who competed at the State Leadership Conference. I look forward to seeing those of you who qualified for the NLC in Anaheim!

Throughout the year, I have enjoyed serving Wisconsin and the rest of the North Central Region. I am proud to say that Wisconsin, the North Central Region and National FBLA all increased in membership from the previous year! That is a great accomplishment, but it is just one of the many successes we have had during the year. Thank you for all of your work, Wisconsin FBLA!

As I close my final message to you, I would like to leave you with a quote. Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, once said, *"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time."* Wisconsin FBLA, do not get too content and comfortable with the way things are. Do not be discouraged when situations are challenging. I encourage you to seek to make positive changes wherever you can.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you this year as we strived to *Get the Edge*. Thank you for the opportunity!

Caleb Harris
North Central Region Vice President



State Leadership Conference Wrap-Up

Article by Michelle Friedel, State President

The **2009 State Leadership Conference** was a huge success! We had over **2,100** attendees this year. There were fantastic workshops to attend, motivating speakers and awesome tours to attend in Milwaukee over the two days.



We had over 70 competitive events for our members to choose from, including the newly-added event of Sports Management. There will be many Wisconsin competitors attending the National Leadership Conference. To see the complete list please, view website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fbla/xls/slctop5.xls>.

For the first time since 1987, a new chapter has taken over the title of Wisconsin's Outstanding Chapter! We would like to congratulate the Portage High School chapter for being the Wisconsin FBLA's 2009 Outstanding Chapter.

We would like to congratulate Ms. Jan Imhoff from Portage High School for being the Wisconsin FBLA 2009 Outstanding Adviser! Ms. Imhoff will be representing Wisconsin at the National Leadership Conference.

We are looking forward to the 2010 SLC which will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells on April 12 and 13.



Notes from the Former President

Article by Michelle Friedel, Wisconsin State President

It has been an incredible and life-changing experience to serve on the State Officer Team for Wisconsin FBLA. I could not have imagined that 4 years ago, a high school organization could have given me the amazing opportunities that it did. Before being involved in FBLA, I'd never thought that I could get up in front of 2,000 people and speak, I never thought I could write monthly articles for a publication, and I certainly never thought I could have hosted a Regional Leadership Conference for over 800 people. I hope that every high school student realizes and embraces all of the opportunities that FBLA brings.

While being involved in FBLA, I've been able to watch myself grow with every new task and challenge that is set before me. I've had the great opportunity to travel to

states such as Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio, and Georgia, work with some incredible business leaders of Wisconsin, and work with this amazing officer team.

FBLA is an organization that gives you amazing opportunities. Everyone should take advantage of these opportunities, grow as an individual, and be proud to be a part of such a fantastic organization.

Michelle Friedel
2008-2009 Wisconsin FBLA State President



Planning for Fall



Article by Katey Molinarolo, Wisconsin State Parliamentarian

Nobody wants to think about it, but there are only **315** days until SLC next year! That means there is so much to be done. While the state officers plan fun leadership labs, you can help your local chapter have a fun start to the year.

First of all, end this year with a bang. Have a banquet or gathering to give recognition to the fabulous work and fun memories members have had this year. Have a goofy time playing games or having a barbecue.

Then, think about getting actively involved with your local chapter by becoming an officer. If you do, remind your adviser that [Summer Local Chapter Officer Training](#) is in the Wisconsin Dells July 28-29.

Later, brainstorm what you want to do next year with FBLA. Maybe you want to earn the America Level of the Business Achievement Awards. Maybe you want to have your chapter's membership increase; Membership Madness and Mania are great ways to recruit new members. Maybe you want your chapter to earn the Go Green Award or maybe receive recognition as a Gold Seal Chapter or an Outstanding Local Chapter. The summer is a perfect time to plan these activities for the next year.

When the school bell rings at the start of the new year, get the word out about FBLA. New membership brings new friends, new ideas, and leadership opportunities for all members.

*Have fun **getting the edge** over the summer and next fall!*



Newly Elected State Executive Board

2009-2010 Wisconsin FBLA State Officers

Being a State Officer is a huge commitment and challenge. There are twelve new officers who hold these positions this year. These twelve individuals will have the chance to help improve and maintain the wonderful Wisconsin FBLA program. The 2009-2010 Wisconsin FBLA State Officer Team is:

State President: Larissa Speerstra - Gilmanton High School
State Vice President: McKenzie Baecker - Cochrane-Fountain City High School
State Secretary: Jenny O'Rourke - Portage High School
State Treasurer: Lindsay Pappenfus - Kenosha Tremper High School
State Reporter: Trent Van Damme - Superior High School
State Parliamentarian: Chelsea Ruda - La Crosse Central High School

Region I VP: Johanna Smith - Somerset High School
Region II VP: Ann Reetz - Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School
Region III VP: Kyle Ashauer - Xavier High School
Region IV VP: Shannon Heller - Alma Central Lincoln High School
Region V VP: Jenny Nash - Fond du Lac High School
Region VI VP: Laura Schoenike - Oconomowoc High School

CONGRATULATIONS!

Notes from the Newly Elected State President



Article by Larissa Speerstra, 2009-2010 State President

Greetings Wisconsin FBLA!

My name is Larissa Speerstra, and I am your newly elected State President. First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you who competed at the State Leadership Conference in April. You should all be very proud of your achievements this year. I would also like to extend further congratulations to all of you who advanced to competition at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim,

California, good luck. June is just around the corner, and I can't wait to meet you there!

As the school year is winding down, many of you will be electing your new local officer team. I would like to wish all of the local officer candidates the best of luck, and I hope I will get to work with you in the Wisconsin Dells on July 28-29 for [Summer Local Chapter Officer Training](#).

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your State President. I am looking forward to a great year with all of you!

Larissa Speerstra
2009-2010 Wisconsin FBLA State President

Service Never Ends



Article by Samantha Murphy, Wisconsin State Vice President

This past year, Wisconsin FBLA members have stepped up to "Get the Edge" by competing individually, as a team or in chapter competitions. Members have networked with students from across the nation, attended leadership workshops and volunteered their time to participate in community service activities. Whether members are doing roadside clean-up, hosting a Silent Auction, spending time at a senior citizen home or volunteering time reading to an elementary classroom, FBLA members are always excited for

a challenge and ready for something new!

Wisconsin FBLA members and chapters have been challenged with the new "Go Green" chapter project this year. Chapters are required to complete three activities from three different categories: Service, Education, and Progress. The "Go Green" project is to educate Wisconsin about energy efficiency use, and ways to reduce, re-use, and recycle in an attempt to save our environment! One chapter from each

region will receive national recognition. Good luck to all participating chapters and continue to "Go Green!"

At this year's Wisconsin FBLA State Leadership Conference held in Milwaukee, WI, there were new challenges to raise money for the [March of Dimes, Saving Babies Foundation](#). The State Officer Team organized a Miracle Minute Contest, during the closing awards ceremony. Members of the Cochrane-Fountain City High School and Middle Level FBLA Chapters started with 15 empty buckets and went through the crowd for ONE minute to collect loose change and dollar bill donations. Together, Wisconsin FBLA members raised over \$2,000! Congratulations, and thank you to everyone in attendance that participated! Wisconsin FBLA continues its tradition as a proud supporter of the March of Dimes, Saving Babies Foundation!

I wish you all the best of luck with your future endeavors through Wisconsin FBLA, and your future community service projects! With a positive attitude and a willingness to step up and stand out, FBLA members will continue to leave a strong impact on the people around them. Best of Luck Wisconsin FBLA, and thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the members and advisers, as the 2008-2009 State Vice President!

Contribute to Wisconsin FBLA eBulletin!

Please send us your articles and ideas in order to make the next issue of the Wisconsin FBLA eBulletin even better! If you have any articles to submit please contact the State Reporter, Trent Van Damme, at wifblareporter@gmail.com. Don't forget to tell us about your community service projects and be presented in the "Community Service SPOTLIGHT!"



Quick Links...

- [State Leadership Team](#)
- [Wisconsin FBLA Website](#)
- [North Central FBLA Website](#)
- [Previous eBulletin Issues](#)
- [DPI Nondiscrimination Clause](#)

email: erik.sitts@dpi.wi.gov
voice: 608-267-9259
web: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fbla/>